

FRANKFORD ARSENAL, Building 30/31
South of Tacony Street between Bridge
Street and the tracks of the former
Pennsylvania Railroad
Philadelphia
Philadelphia County
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-74F

HAER
PA,
51-PHILA,
693-F-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
MID-ATLANTIC REGION, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106

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Location: South of Tacony Street between Bridge Street and the tracks of the former
Pennsylvania Railroad
Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania

Quad: Frankford

Date of Construction: 1855 - Building 30
1909 - Building 31

Significance: Building 30 served as the quarters for the post armorer. Building 31 is an
addition, constructed in 1909. The two buildings are associated with the
nineteen and twentieth century history of Frankfords Arsenal, the U. S.
Army's principal center for the manufacturer of ammunition for more than
one hundred years.

Historian: Patrick W. O'Bannon
Principal Historian
John Milner Associates, Inc.
1216 Arch Street, 5th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107

HISTORY

Building 30 was erected in 1855 as the quarters for the post armorer. The kitchen wing dates from ca. 1860 to 1870. In 1909, a second-story was added to this wing and a two-story addition constructed to the south. This work, along with interior alterations, resulted in the building being divided into two separate non-commissioned officers' quarters.

DESCRIPTION

Building 30/31 is a two-story painted brick building with stuccoed, rubble stone foundation and a brick watertable. The building has a flat, tin roof with a wooden cornice. A two-story brick wing, originally a kitchen wing, probably of one-story, extends east from the main block. A two-story brick addition was constructed against the south elevation of the kitchen wing in 1909. A hip-roofed porch, supported by three wooden posts, is located on the west facade. An open porch is located on the north elevation of the kitchen wing and an enclosed porch is located on the south elevation of the 1909 addition. Window openings are rectangular, with stone sills and eight-over-eight sash. The west entry has sidelights and a three-light transom.

Building 30 has a side hall plan with a handsome winding stair. The balusters and newel date from ca. 1870. The interior of Building 31, which includes the former kitchen wing of Building 30 and the 1909 addition is also side hall plan.

SOURCE

John Milner Associates, "Historical and Archeological Survey of Frankford Arsenal," West Chester, PA: John Milner Associates, 1979.

Report prepared for the Department of the Army, Baltimore District, Corps of Engineers, Baltimore, Maryland. Copies on file at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Free Library of Philadelphia, and the Philadelphia Historical Commission.

For complete overview of site, see HAER No. PA-74.

